

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA  
CPYRGHT

UNITED PRESS  
INTERNATIONAL  
(UPI A34)

MARCH 5, 1963

DAY LEAD CHECKS

CPYRGHT

MIAMI, MARCH 5 (UPI)--A CENTRAL AMERICAN ANTI-CASTRO GROUP IS PAYING \$1,500 A MONTH TO THE WIVES OF FOUR AMERICAN PILOTS MISSING IN THE 1961 PIGS CUBAN INVASION, AN ATTORNEY REVEALED YESTERDAY.

ALEX E. CARLSON, ATTORNEY FOR THE UNIDENTIFIED GROUP, SAID THE MONEY WAS FROM A TRUST FUND SET UP BY CASTRO FOES "AFTER ALL HOPE WAS ABANDONED" FOR THE AMERICAN PILOTS FLYING FOR THEM.

THE FUND GAVE THE FOUR BIRMINGHAM, ALA., WOMEN \$225 EACH EVERY TWO WEEKS SINCE THEIR AIRMEN HUSBANDS WERE MISSING AND BELIEVED KILLED APRIL 19, 1961, NEAR THE END OF THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION.

THE CHECKS, DRAWN ON BANKERS TRUST CO. OF NEW YORK, HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY MRS. RILEY W. SHAMBURGER JR., MRS. WADK U. GRAY, MRS. THOMAS WILLARD RAY AND MRS. LEE F. BAKER.

MRS. GRAY TOLD UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL EARLIER SHE RECEIVED THE CHECKS BUT DID NOT KNOW THE SENDER. MRS. SHAMBURGER SAID SHE KNEW THE SENDER, BUT DECLINED TO DISCLOSE THE ORIGIN OF THE MONEY.

CARLSON SAID SEVERAL FLIERS WERE RECRUITED TO FLY AGAINST CASTRO DURING THE INVASION, AND THE FOUR BIRMINGHAM AIRMEN WERE FLYING A C-46 CARGO PLANE CONVERTED FOR LIGHT STRAFING WHEN THEY BEGAN HAVING TROUBLE AND WERE PRESUMED CRASHED.

"THE LAST WE HEARD FROM THEM THEY WERE LOSING ALTITUDE WITH ONE ENGINE OUT," CARLSON SAID.

THE WIVES SAID THE AIRMEN WERE RECRUITED IN JANUARY, 1961, AND LEFT IN FEBRUARY SAYING THEIR DESTINATION WAS CLASSIFIED.

SEVERAL OF THE WOMEN HAVE SAID THEY BELIEVED THE MEN WERE WORKING FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OR SOME OTHER GOVERNMENT UNIT. THE CIA, HOWEVER, SAID IT ADHERES TO A POLICY OF SILENCE REGARDING THE INVASION.

CARLSON SAID YESTERDAY THE CENTRAL AMERICAN GROUP AUTHORIZED THE DOUBLE CHECK CORP. OF MIAMI SPRINGS TO SET UP THE TRUST FUND.

THE ATTORNEY REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THE CENTRAL AMERICAN GROUP. BUT HE DID SAY THAT SEVERAL WEALTHY CUBAN EXILES WERE CONTRIBUTORS.

ML320AEB